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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 18 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to refer to documents A/64/794–S/2010/257 and A/64/795–S/2010/258 of 28 May 2010 containing a press release and statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and circulated under agenda items 14 and 18 of the General Assembly containing the distorted interpretations of the Azerbaijani Government regarding the resolution of the European Parliament adopted on 20 May 2010 with respect to the need for a European Union strategy for the South Caucasus.

The above-mentioned resolution of the European Parliament is at odds with the spirit of the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. Certain provisions of the resolution are absolutely not in line with the Madrid Principles, the joint statement issued by the countries of the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group at the L'Aquila Summit of the Eight and the declaration on Nagorno-Karabakh of 2 November 2008. Moreover, some of the provisions in the resolution also contradict the positions of the European Union itself with respect to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Azerbaijan has permanently misinterpreted the substance and the causes of this conflict and tries to shift the responsibility for its consequences to the Armenian sides — the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and the Republic of Armenia.

In fact, the essence of the problem is that the people of Nagorno Karabakh have realized the right to self-determination in full compliance with the principles of international law. The conflict has emerged because of the Azerbaijani policy of ethnic cleansing and violence, carried out brutally against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in response to their legal claim to live in freedom through the application of their right to self-determination. Consequently, these actions unfolded into open aggression and large-scale hostilities against the self-determined Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, ultimately claiming the lives of tens of thousands of civilians and causing huge material damage. The wounds of the last war have not

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yet healed, but Azerbaijan is trying to launch a new war by initiating an unhealthy arms race and preaching hatred against Armenia and the Armenians at the State level.

We call upon Azerbaijan to show its readiness for constructive participation in the ongoing process of conflict resolution instead of engaging in the meaningless task of interpreting the resolutions of the European Parliament and other international organizations on a selective, one-sided and distorted basis, as it has always done, trying to conceal the true essence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the reasons for its escalation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative